

## Child Care Protocol for Children/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

This document applies to all children/staff regardless of vaccination status. The purpose of this document is to help child care operators and parents/guardians understand the following:

- *What should the child care do if a child/staff develops COVID-19 symptoms at child care?*
- *What should a parent/guardian do if their child has COVID-19 symptoms while at home?*
- *Do siblings or other household members (e.g., staff) of the child/staff who has symptoms need to go home too?*
- *Who should the child care be contacting at public health if they need additional guidance or support?*

For non-COVID-19 related symptoms and illnesses, child care operators are also reminded of the [Childhood Illnesses Reference Guide for Schools and Child Care Centres](#) which provides information on common infectious diseases and to help with preventing further spread of illness in child care settings.

## Child Care Protocol for Children/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms

Child/Staff with COVID-19 symptoms (regardless of vaccination status)

Child or staff is at home

Parent/guardian or staff contacts child care

Parent/guardian/staff follows direction provided by the [COVID-19 School & Child Care Screening tool](#)

Household members who are not fully vaccinated must stay home if anyone has COVID-19 symptoms or is waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.

Stay home until the person with symptoms gets a negative COVID-19 test result, or is cleared by public health, or is diagnosed with another illness

Child or staff is at child care

Parent/guardian/staff follows direction provided in the [COVID-19 School & Child Care Screening tool](#) for information on testing and return to child care. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms identified in the screening tool should follow the [Return to School/Child Care Protocol for Children/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms](#) for guidance.

Coordinate immediate pick-up and child should isolate in a designated area (i.e. isolation room\* with designated staff to care for child) until parent/guardian arrival. Symptomatic staff are to go home immediately.

Siblings and/or household members should be contacted and those who are not fully vaccinated are to be sent home and remain home until the person with symptoms gets a negative COVID-19 test result or is diagnosed with another illness from a healthcare provider.

\*The **isolation room** should be an enclosed space separate from other people that is equipped with PPE, hand sanitizer, tissues, and a lined garbage bin. It should be cleaned and disinfected after use

Child care operators do not need to report all children/staff with symptoms to WDGPH (only report confirmed positive cases). If further guidance is required, operator may contact Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 Ext. 7006

For non-COVID-19 related symptoms and illnesses, child care operators are also reminded of the [Childhood Illnesses Reference Guide for Schools and Child Care Centres](#) which provides information on common infectious diseases and to help with preventing further spread of illness in child care. **As per regular protocols, all sick individuals with any symptoms of illness should stay home and seek assessment from their regular health care provider if required.**